



Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT AUTHORITY

EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

July 26, 2005

Mr. Paul Dabbs, Chief
Water Resources Evaluation Section
Statewide Water Planning Branch
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Comments on Public Review Draft California Water Plan Update 2005

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is pleased to have participated in the work leading up to this *California Water Plan Update 2005*. We appreciate the DWR staff and consultants' efforts to understand how regional water management truly benefits the entire State of California. We strongly support DWR's emphasis in this Update on the critical nature and role of regional water planning and support for integrated regional water management. This Update smartly focuses on developing regional and local projects that address water supply, groundwater conjunctive use, recycled water, and water efficiency to meet the needs of the State as it continues to grow.

During the time the Update has been in preparation, the Santa Ana Watershed has planned and conducted projects that generate 300,000 acre-feet of new water from our local sources at an incentive cost of less than \$100 per acre-foot. This work can only exemplify and reaffirm the importance placed on the development of regional and local projects with regional and statewide benefits.

We feel that the public advisory process was helpful to DWR and to the water community across the State. We also commend DWR for the use of actual data from recent wet, normal, and dry years for the base year scenarios; the development of multiple future scenarios; and the identification of many more water resource management options to make the plan a strategic and useful document for the State's policy makers.



We want to underscore recommendations made by others:

- Use the Integrated Regional Water Management and Urban Water Management Plan data to drive the analysis of the regions. Many efforts have improved the outlook and this would focus DWR on the most critical issues.
- Rerunning the regional water portfolios with the data above will be important to have the greatest impact on the regions and benefit to the plan.
- Regions should be small enough to plan effectively and large enough to aggregate need and supply adequately.

SAWPA believes that this Update is important and that continued efforts are valuable to the State. The next Update will be more valuable if the newly updated 2005 Urban Water Management Plans and Integrated Water Management Plans are used. Between 2000 and 2005, the Santa Ana Watershed added about 300,000 acre-feet of new water per year by adding over \$800 million in new water infrastructure and environmental improvements. These significantly add to the regional and State water portfolio.

We want to thank the DWR staff and its consultants for their hard work on this Update. We look forward to continuing to work with DWR as it prepares to tackle the next Update.

Sincerely,

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority



Daniel B. Cozad
General Manager

DC:mj